

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4454

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO AMCONSUL BELIZE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON

CINCLANT

JCS WASHDC

USCINCEUR

USLOSACLANT

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 6045

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BH, MOPS, NATO, DPC

SUBJ: UK REINFORCEMENT OF GARRISON IN BELIZE

AT OPENING OF NOVEMBER 6 DEFENSE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING,
KILLICK (UK) READ STATEMENT, TEXT OF WHICH FOLLOWS BELOW,
REGARDING UK REINFORCEMENT OF BRITISH GARRISON IN BELIZE.
FOLLOWING UK STATEMENT, SECRETARY-GENERAL LUNS COMMENTED
THAT HE HOPED BRITISH "SHOW OF FORCE" WOULD PREVENT FURTHER
DETERIORATION OF SITUATION IN BELIZE. OTHER PERMREPS DID NOT
COMMENT ON UK STATEMENT.

BEGIN TEXT:

1. AS YOU WILL KNOW, BELIEZE IS A BRITISH DEPENDENCY WHOSE
DEFENSE AGAINST EXTERNAL ATTACK IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF HMG.
IN THE PAST TWO MONTHS, THE GUATEMALAN ARMED FORCES IN THE
AREA NEAR TO THE BORDER WITH BELIZE HAVE BEEN REINFORCED BY
TROOPS BROUGHT IN FROM OTHER PARTS OF GUATEMALA. THIS INCREASED
MILITARY ACTIVITY HAS TAKEN PLACE AGAINST A BACKGROUND OF
STATEMENTS BY GUATEMALAN MINISTERS OF THEIR INTENTIONS OF
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INCORPORATING BELIZE IN GUATEMALA. THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAS,
THEREFORE, RELUCTANTLY BEEN FORCED TO DECIDE THAT IT HAD NO
ALTERNATIVE BUT TO INCREASE THE SMALL GARRISON IN BELIZE.

2. THE ORIGINAL GARRISON, WHICH CONSISTED OF 2 COMPANY GROUPS AND SUPPORTING UNITS, TOTALLED JUST UNDER 600 MEN. THEY ARE BEING REINFORCED BY A FURTHER 2 COMPANY GROUPS AND SUPPORTING UNITS AND 6 HARRIER AIRCRAFT FROM THE UK-BASED SQUADRON IN 38 GROUP ASSIGNED TO THE AMF. THE INFANTRY COMPANY GROUPS ARE DRAWN FROM THE UK AND DO NOT AFFECT OUR FORCES ASSIGNED TO NATO. A FRIGATE FROM OUR WEST INDIES SQUADRON HAS ALSO BEEN DEPLOYED TO THE AREA.

3. NOTWITHSTANDING THE DEPLOYMENT OF 6 OF THE 12 AMF-ASSIGNED HARRIERS TO BELIZE, THE UNITED KINGDOM IS ABLE TO MAINTAIN HER COMMITMENT TO CONTRIBUTE A FULL SQUADRON OF THESE AIRCRAFT TO THE AMF(A), SHOULD THE NEED ARISE, BY MAKING USE OF OTHER HARRIER AIRCRAFT DEPLOYED IN THE UNITED KINGDOM. MOREOVER, THE AIRCRAFT COULD BE REDEPLOYED TO THE UK WITHIN SEVEN DAYS.

4. AT THIS STAGE, WE CANNOT ANTICIPATE HOW LONG THIS COMMITMENT WILL LAST, AND WE HAVE NOT YET DECIDED WHETHER ANY FURTHER REINFORCEMENTS WILL BE REQUIRED. WE WILL, OF COURSE, KEEP THE DPC/MC INFORMED.

5. SACEUR IS BEING INFORMED. END TEXT.STREATOR

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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